

アンデッドは

暖を求む



# **UNDEAD SEEKS WARMTH**

**- Volume 2 -**

**LIFE OR DEATH AGONY**

**AUTHOR:**

**Endless**

**[ Translated by: Shinsori Translations ]**

## CHAPTER 18

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[Mountain Range of Dusk].

And [Red Rouge Plains].

This neighborhood is mainly divided to mountains and plains, and monsters are distributed accordingly.

Especially the [Mountain Range of Dusk] which turns red in the night is a mountain full of ominous magic power and demons.

Even that Corpse-Eating Dragon Hannibal was chased from his territory, its a very dangerous place.

To be honest, entering that place as I'm right now would be suicide.

But fortunately, the mountain monsters descend the mountain only rarely.

The monsters of the [Red Rouge Plains] are certainly strong too.

But after evolving into the Freezing Undead, it's not like I can't compete with them.

I heard from Nee-san that they are monsters of a similar level to Black Salamander.

The monsters inside the labyrinth are weaker compared to those outside. Probably because of the bad visibility and the limited space. If I can defeat the Black Salamander I should be able to handle the monsters of the plains.

Well, anyway. I can't settle on the magic power from the monsters inside the labyrinth anymore.

That place will be my hunting grounds from now on.

I will take a look around, Nee-san should return first.

When I told Nee-san about my plans, she nodded in agreement.

After parting ways with Nee-san, I close my eyes and concentrate on the heat detection.

I can feel the heat in the surroundings. Maybe that's why I can tell that my body is cold.

The coldness is the difference in temperature.

That's the reason I feel cold from head to the tip of my toes.

Because I understand the temperature around me, my cold body feels even colder.

But no matter how far I expand my sense, my body is still here.

The heat in other places does not reach me.

After becoming the Freezing Undead, the surface of my body got covered by a thin layer of ice further blocking the heat from me.

..... I want a body that generates heat next time.

While thinking such, my senses kept expanding.

A radius of about 200 meters around me. That is my current range limit.

Aside from the air and inanimate objects, I find a few heat releasing beings.

For some reason, one was in the sky.

..... I see. This is outside, naturally there would be flying monsters around.

I completely forgot because I was living in the labyrinth for so long.

From now on, I must also pay attention above me.

I roam not too far from the labyrinth and extend my heat detection.

..... Apparently in the plains, there are many devil beast type monsters.

The movement of the heat is fast and their temperature is generally high.

How enviable. From the Immortal Undead's view(mine) having a warm body is more than great.

Ah, I want to become devil beast type too. For instance, the top of immortality class Vampire. Even Nee-san's temperature is very low.

However, am I asking for an impossible.....?

What if continue hunting devil beast monsters and collect their magic power?

I may become something closely relative.

Nee-san said that sometimes during evolution, you inherit the characteristics of the strongest monster you consume.

..... Huh? Is that why I gained ice attribute?

If that's the case, I blame you Black Salamander. To cause me feel cold even after death.

I won't forgive you. Someday, I will annihilate you.

After walking for about an hour, I've detected a heat source coming my way from

above.

I have thought about hiding at first, but it's difficult to hide from someone watching from the skies.

But well, it's just right..... I have thought that I need experience fighting against an airborne opponent.

I open my eyes and lie in wait for my enemy.

Perhaps because my opponent is a bird type, it's very fast.

But it's not at the level where I can't react.

I prepare my handsword and take an aggressive stance.

The heat suddenly accelerated.

It surprised me a little bit, but it's natural that the speed increases while swooping.

I correct the timing of my attack and send it flying with a kick to the side.

The reason I didn't use my handsword, is because it may not have enough force to cut down the monster.

The monster rolled in the grass.

I saw the figure of my opponent for the first time.

..... Tsu!?

The foot that moved to deal the fatal blow stopped in a moment.

The monsters couldn't move because of the shock from the kick, and tried to get up

while wobbling.

Magic Profess sent information about the monster before my eyes into my head.

..... Raven Harpy.

It's name escaped unconsciously from my mouth.

Probably because of the evolution, the knowledge of Magic Profess increased and more than ever information about the species appeared inside my head.

Slender body. Legs identical to bird's, arms unified with black wings.

Since coming to this world, I knew I would come across it eventually, just like Nee-san.

I decided to fight for evolution, so we had to face one day or another. But, there's one problem.

..... That is——

——While observing the body that is very similar to human's, our eyes met.



## CHAPTER 19

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..... Before I came to this world.

I was raised in a peaceful country without wars. Me, who saw people dying only on television, can someone like that kill something so similar to a human?.

Originally, I thought about this before hunting, but I put that question aside.

The reason is simple. I did not want to find the answer easily, and above all, the [Labyrinth of Everlasting Darkness] doesn't have any humanoid monsters.

You could say that the Rotting Corpse Zombie was once humanoid, but it clearly is just a corpse.

However..... This is different.

The Raven Harpy girl in her late teens who fell to the ground doesn't try to attack me again, she just stares at me with a frightened face.

Harpy species..... No, the overall intelligence of all pseudo-humans is high. There are individuals who can understand human language among them.

Therefore, they have rich feelings and a strong fear of death.

Up until now, I have been slaughtering Solder Skeletons and Departed Souls. They are totally different.

What to do?

What should I do?

It would be easy to twist this Harpy's neck right now. It would be over in one second.



But, is it the right thing to do?

If I do it, would I be able to live as I was until now?

I understand that I no longer am a human, I accepted it.

However, still, it doesn't mean that I threw away my human heart.

I don't want to kill people.

Although my true feelings come from an emotionally-charged argument, a simple word comes to my mind [Unnecessary].

Even if I kill a human being, I won't get any Magic Power. Thus, it's unnecessary, therefore, I won't kill you.

Isn't that a logical thinking?

But, 'that' in the first place is not a human. It only looks similar to a human.

If I kill it, I will obtain Magic Power. Moreover, several times more than from a Skeleton.

However, but. Isn't this child frightened?

Obviously. Everyone is afraid of death. 'This' is only easier to understand.

But, doesn't that mean that it has a mind?

An existence with a presence of mind, even if it's not a human, even if it's only close to a human, am I able to put an end to it?

Doesn't that mean I was killing mindless opponents until now?

Skeleton, Zombie even a Ghost. Perhaps all of them had a presence of a mind, I just simply couldn't understand.

After killing them all with a calm face, why am I hesitating now?

It's something I must prepare for eventually.

I have decided that I won't stop.

Wasn't I going to regain a living body?

For that reason, many sacrifices are necessary.

'That' is not a human. It's clear.

It's only similar in shape, it's clearly only a monster.

This isn't a world I can live in with such lukewarm attitude.

It's a world only the strong, clever and lucky ones survive.

Because I am strong, I was able to step over the Skeletons and Zombies.

Because I am smart, I was able to separate Black Salamander's head from its body.

Because I am lucky, I survived the encounter with Lesser Evil and Hannibal.

But, this Harpy is different.

This fellow is a fool who challenged someone stronger than itself.

Nobody can complain even if it dies.

Therefore, kill it. The same way you killed until now.

And obtain the nourishment.

With the nourishment gain the power in order to get a life.

Make a resolution to kill every monster apart from Nee-san right now!

..... In the end, I wasn't able to kill the Harpy.

I turned by back on her sobbing and trembling figure.

I faintly told her to "Go". And left like that.

Standing in the middle of the plains, I gazed at the rising red moon.

It wasn't hypocrisy.

It wasn't compassion either.

I just wasn't able to kill something so similar to a human, I couldn't finish off my prey.

It was selfish of me.

Killing monsters so thoroughly in order to evolve, and yet to hesitate to deal the finishing blow.

..... What to do from now on I wonder?

That every life is equal, I don't possess such saintly thoughts.

Rather I think that human life is not equal, I don't think the ordinary person's life is equal to that of Hero's.

Even though I have decided to trample over the difference in value.

This is the result.

There's a limit to being miserable.

While feeling such feelings, something ran towards me from behind.

A wolf the size of a big dog..... I check it with Magic Profess. It seems this is [Night Wolf], a well known monster in this area.

I jump over the wolf and gift my handsword to its neck.

Dumbfounded at how easily it went through, the Night Wolf died.

..... I can kill a beast so easily.

If this was the Harpy, I couldn't even point the handsword.

I couldn't even ridicule my own selfishness.

## CHAPTER 20

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The problem that I put off on the previous notice has returned, I'm really worried.

..... At the very least I should lighten up my expression, but I am not able to.

Anyway, I've confirmed the terrain, and came to understand the strength of monsters to some extent now, therefore, I have decided to return to the labyrinth.

Before meeting with Nee-san who should be waiting for me at the entrance, my sunken expression will hopefully return to normal.

Because I don't want to needlessly worry her.

I'm possessing a body that doesn't need to breathe, but because of my habit in the living era, I sigh deeply while walking down the staircase.

Two seconds after meeting Nee-San, she told me that I was acting weird.

How can she tell? No, really, how did she find out?

I unconsciously asked the same thing twice. It was just that unexpected.

Nee-san fixed her eyes on me and was staring at me deeply with her ruby pupils.

Please don't look at me with such eyes. It makes me feel like I've sinned instead.

I went as far as not using honorifics, but it didn't stop Nee-san's staring.

Come to think of it, Vampires dislike lies and secrets, right?

No, was it Oni? But, vampire's name is derived from Oni.

But either way, it seems I will be stared at until I speak the truth.

..... But I won't speak.

Indeed, this is a problem I should solve myself.

She made me talk.

It's certain that I was pretending to be tough while feeling depressed, moreover, to think Nee-san had such strong measure.

While trying to deceive her and escape, her mantle transformed into countless bats and captured me.

So the bats were produced in such way.....

She dragged me to her room and confined me until I was ready to talk.

Because I couldn't think of it as a simple joke, I started talking. I couldn't help but start talking.

I couldn't kill a pseudo-human.

I avoided it after injuring it.

Although she is broadly similar to pseudo-humans, it may be difficult for a monster like Nee-san to understand.

In fact, she tilts her head in a confusion. Because around here, the basic sense of value is different, there's no helping it.

I was originally a human. Therefore, I'm unable to kill something of the same shape without hesitation.

When I tell her that, she tilts her head to the side again.

This..... I said it plainly.

Then, it would be all right if you just don't kill them.

There is no rule anywhere saying that you are required to kill everything weaker than you.

There's no merit to killing on a whim.

That way, you don't have to kill as much as you like.

Nee-san said.

The strong have the privilege to decide between life and death of the weaker ones.

If you don't want to kill it, choose a different prey.

You have enough strength to be somewhat picky, and in the future, you will be even stronger, she said.

Honestly, it was shocking.



It was obviously a theory of the strong. The weak wouldn't tolerate such theory.

I also thought it was an opinion of someone who can trample over anything.

However, at the same time, just a little.

It was just a little, but I felt like I was saved.

Certainly, Nee-san's words may sound selfish, absurd and they definitely don't solve all of my problems.

And I'm sure that this person doesn't understand why I can't kill pseudo-humans with my own hands at all.

But, there's no mistaking that it solves one of my problems.

For the purpose of my goal I have taken many lives, and somewhere deep down I was searching for my [Righteousness].

If you take, I will also equally take. No discrimination.

There surely was such thought.

Not for anyone else, I wanted my own little more forgiving rule for myself.

I'm hesitant to kill pseudo-humans. If I don't kill I won't be able to show my equality.

I probably thought something so ridiculous.

..... Ah.

I'm glad I was able to encounter a pseudo-human at this time.

If I had met them later, when I'm more accustomed to this world.

I would probably kill pseudo-humans while misunderstanding that my equality is the most correct, immersed in a cheap satisfaction.

Something like that must not happen.

I'm still not determined.

I will avoid killing those with a human shape.

I will fight while having mixed feelings.

But, I intend to carry such thoughts for a while.

You should carry them when you have to.

While I'm carrying them, I will not be able to kill pseudo-humans.

But, that's fine.

If I throw them away so easily, I won't be 'former human' anymore.

I won't be able to regain warm body with a frozen heart.

Carry on, carry on, carry on to the end.

And I will be able to find the answer.

That's surely it, is what I thought.

## CHAPTER 21

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[Red Rouge Plains] 's prospects are good.

Therefore, unlike in the labyrinth, surprise attacks are becoming more difficult.

Besides, beast type monsters have good hearing, their sense of smell is also good.

I can only approach after considering things like wind direction. If I mess up, it will call for friends and I will be surrounded.

There are not many monsters acting in a group but..... Better safe than sorry.

I won't make the same mistake I made with the Lesser Evil.

There is a reaction from the Heat Detection.

The number is 2. Body temperatures are stirred, they are probably in the middle of a fight.

After the Evolution, my overall capability has improved, but the Heat Detection improved the most.

As the by-product of the sudden temperature decrease, I can detect even the slightest changes in temperature.

The temperature of living beings changes depending on their emotions and physical condition.

If I attack my opponent, I can understand their emotions and condition.

As ever, I will lose sight of it when concealed with magic, but I'm happy that my precision rose.

I walk towards the location slowly in order to avoid suspicion.

I watch the opposite party, while hiding behind a big rock.

Two Night Wolves are fighting each other.

Apparently, they seem to be fighting over meat of some small animal.

..... Both of the same species, there's not much difference between their abilities.

At top of starvation, they are getting fatigued from the fighting.

This is a chance.

I jump up on the rock and wait for the moment when the distance between the two shrinks.

At the moment they bare their fangs in order to bite, I leap with all my might.

Before the Night Wolves notice me, I attack their necks with handsword. They couldn't even react.

I turn around in an arc and see two heads floating in the air.

Together with sounds of two heads hitting the ground, I swing off the blood from my hands.

In Approximately three hours, I hunted several other monsters besides the Night Wolves.

For example, a spider that could swallow a human child whole [Tsuchigumo].

A [Sword Lion] that had numerous thorns that resembled rapiers instead of a mane.

And a slightly difficult to handle, a 5-meter long snake, [Violent Serpent]

The snake feels its prey with heat just like me.

Thus, I who has a body covered in ice, couldn't hide and had to face the snake upfront.

The tactics I use are fundamentally assassinations.

With this tactics, I was able to win against opponents stronger than me without sustaining major injuries.

To be frank, fighting head-on is troublesome. I was almost swallowed whole. Let's escape next time.

Afterward, ah right.

I encountered a pseudo-human again.

A monster which had the appearances of wolf mixed with human, a [Werewolf].

It was male, unlike the Harpy from before but..... I couldn't kill it after all.

Ah, in the first place, it's not like I didn't kill the Harpy because she was female.

It had sniffed me out thanks to its nose but fortunately escaped after figuring that I was stronger.

However, next encounter may not go so smoothly.

What I came into contact this time..... Wasn't only the Werewolf, I have confirmed another two species of Pseudo-human race.

A monster in the same system as Werewolf, not with outer appearances as a wolf, but a cat [Werecat].

Limbs covered in solid scales, a strong tail, and horns growing on its head a

[Dragonewt].

Dragonewt is especially dangerous. Unlike others, it's stronger than me.

Right now, I don't have the resolve to kill Pseudo-humans, I didn't even settle to my new ways, and I encounter something like that. That was the worst.

In addition, there are many other monsters stronger than me in this plains.

Actually, I was lucky to catch the Sword Lion by surprise and penetrate its heart.

..... I must quickly discover how things work here or I will be in trouble.

The environment is too different from the labyrinth. The terrain, enemies, everything.

First of all, I must think about how will I deal with Pseudo-humans.

I have obtained a considerable amount of Magic Power today, let's return back to the labyrinth.

.....?

I stop in my tracks on the way back.

I spread my senses and perform the Heat Detection.

The reaction..... Nothing in particular.

There are no monsters within the range of 200 meters around me.

However..... I felt something watching me for an instant.

I will look around just in case.

My night vision isn't that special, but at least I can see.

There's no sight of any big creatures nearby.

Caution is necessary if the opponent uses Magic concealment, but somehow it feels different.

Just my imagination?

I trust my senses 100%, I'm not overestimating myself.

While increasing my vigilance, I start walking again.

I can't feel it anymore. It was just my imagination after all.

I'm still not familiar with these hunting grounds. I may be mentally fatigued.

I will rest a little once I return.



## CHAPTER 22

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After leaving the plains, I went through the gathered intelligence and sorted out my prey.

It's not too difficult to hunt lower ranks which are in large numbers such as Night Wolf and Tsuchigumo. I have decided to hunt mainly them for the time being.

When the intelligent Pseudo-humans noticed my existence, they took various actions depending on the individual and species.

There were those who ran away and those who didn't approach me.

Behaviour of these fellows is saving me trouble. I am not able to kill Pseudo-humans, if possible I don't want to fight them.

Naturally, there were exceptions. But those were not particularly harmful.

If you think about it. Pseudo-humans who can understand the human speech would rather avoid me, unlike the beast that attacks instinctively.

They are monsters at their roots, so I can never be careless around them, but there is around 80% chance to be avoided.

..... Just, part of the belligerent fellows consider me their target.

Pseudo-humans with strong combative instincts are always in search for a fight.

These fellows are interested in the Undead that recently defeated a lot of monsters.

I did not think much about it until now, but if I keep hunting in such way, of course, I

will attract some of those nasty fellows.

I considered restraining myself, but it's already too late so I stopped.

The seed has already been planted. Therefore, I need to quickly collect magic so these guys won't be a threat to me anymore.

If I am not able to kill them, I need to get strong to the extent I could go easy on them.

If I don't want to fight, I need to get strong enough to crush their spirits.

In the end, there's no other way for me, but to become stronger.

I should have done this from the beginning, such feelings accumulated inside me.

In order to regain the warmth of life.

In order to grasp the memories that faded away.

In order to avoid killing beings that are similar to humans in appearance.

I saw my hand incidentally.

A pure white hand with slender fingers and sharp nails.

This hand reaps lives for my selfish reasons.

..... The human girl I met before. Was her name Merlin?

I remember the words I yelled at her when we were escaping from the Corpse-Eating Dragon.

People should live to their utmost limit until they can't carry on.

I'm dead and I kill in order to live.

In order to live once more.

It surely isn't the right thing to do.

..... But.

Even still, I want to live.

I kill beasts, I kill demons, I can't kill Pseudo-humans.

Even tough it's so selfish, I want once more.

I want once more to feel the warmth in this body.

While running through the plains, I sense heat in the 100-meter radius around me.

100 meters is my limit while on the move.

I catch the heat.

I guess it's Big Tarantula from its temperature and shape.

It's impossible to distinguish monsters with similar traits as Pseudo-humans, but I can distinguish other races.

This heat detection ability is very useful, but I'm freezing cold because of it.

I dash towards the heat while complaining about my freezing body.

It's hard to see the body because its color is similar to the grass in the plains, but I was able to find a body of a large spider.

I appropriately pretend not to see and turn my back.

I can win against such monster sufficiently upfront, but it never hurts be cautious.

I leap the last 10 meters and kick the abdomen of the Big Tarantula from below.

The large spider did a half-turn in the air while letting out high-pitched scream.

It inevitably faces upwards, the spider's grotesque head is in a full view.

The tarantula struggles in order get back on feet but I naturally don't waste time and swing my handword.

The sharpness of my nails and the handword nicely separates the Big Tarantula's head. It stopped moving after a few seconds.

I shake off the sticky fluids from my hand and wipe my hands in a handkerchief made from the same material as my clothes.

After carefully wiping my fingers one by one, I put the handkerchief away and take out my pocket watch from my breast pocket.

Approximately four hours passed since I started hunting.

I should return soon. My mental fatigue has already piled up, and Nee-san will get worried if I don't return soon.

She has been waiting for my return at the labyrinth entrance lately after all.

I was told that waiting for someone to return is considerably fun.

I don't understand. Most likely, because I myself don't like waiting.

Therefore, in order not to keep Nee-san waiting, I turn on my heel and return to the

labyrinth.

I stop.

..... Again.

Again, I feel eyes on me.

I'm being watched from somewhere.

However, from where?

I don't know. I don't feel any heat in the range of the heat detection.

Is it hiding with magic or is it more than 200 meters away?

It's probably the latter. Because the former would definitely conceal the 'watching you' feeling I'm getting.

I look around, but can't find anything.

Lately, I feel as if someone is watching me, but I can't find the culprit at all.

The eyes fade away before long.

I stop in this place for a while.

Still can't find it after all.

I clicked my tongue and returned to the labyrinth.

[Freezing Undead] Himuro Takahina

93rd Day.

Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 699/1621

## CHAPTER 23

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It's raining today so I've decided to take a break from hunting.

I dislike rain. The raindrops that fall on my body will freeze and cover me from head to toes in ice.

The precision of Heat detection would drop and it would impair my movement.

And above all, monsters also prefer to remain hidden from the rain.

I sit on the resting place's rubble as always.

Nee-san is sleeping soundly as usual. Basically, she won't get up until night no matter what.

To be able to sleep so deeply is unusual.

..... Well, putting that aside.

I've been finally able to use Magic Profess on my own after closing my eyes and concentrating.

So far, the information flowed into my head automatically.

Although special magic should be quite simple to use with one's own intention, it seems that I don't have a talent for magic.

Still, being able to use it is a godsend.



**Race Name:** Freezing Undead

**Classification:** Immortal • Pseudo-human variety

**Attribute:** Ice

**Rank:** 2

**Individual Name:** Himuro Takahina

**Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit:** 738/1621

The provided information is about myself.

Apart from race and attributes, the numerical value of strength is also showing.

In comparison to monsters of the plains, my combat capability is roughly above average.

My Present Magic Power is amounting to about 40% of my Magic Power Containment Limit.

If I have such ability right now, after Evolution, I should have enough power to kick monsters of the plains around.

I'm hunting only to live. Surely, I will be able to regain life next time.

After confirming my ability, I cancel the Profess.

I've got a sudden idea and carry it out.

**Race name:** Vampire Lord

**Classification:** Immortal • Demon King variety

**Attribute:** Darkness

**Rank:** 9 (MAX)

**Individual Name:** Vermut Elsaroad

**Present Magic Power:** 126,538

..... The hell is this?

I checked Vermut Nee-san's stats out of curiosity.

I've recognized that Nee-san is extremely strong, but the numerical value is out of this world.

I can't even imagine such power coming out of her slim body.

The fearsome Magic Power that exceeds 100,000. Is the limit not shown because the rank is maxed?

The height, weight and three sizes..... It would be bad to look at it without permission.

I cancel the Profess. When the Profess is intentionally invoked, there are miscellaneous information mixed in. It's little inconvenient.

Practice is required, but perhaps because my understanding of magic is low, it does not go well.

Since I get information during a battle without permission, it could become inconvenience any time.

Failure is the Mother of Success. I admire the people of the past.

Anyway, I have understood that Nee-san is out of the norms.

To be picked by such person may have been my greatest luck.

If not for her, I would have already disappeared from this world a long time ago.

No can't thank her enough.

How can I return Nee-san this great debt of gratitude?

I wait until the time Nee-san wakes up and go to her room.

I knock on the door lightly and hear the sound of movement in return.

It seems that I'm exactly on time.

I enter the room after waiting approximately 10 minutes.

Nee-san who sits on her bed in dressing gown still half-asleep looks at me.

Her beautiful blonde hair was still little disarranged.

I take a comb and spray from the shelf and pull a stool.

Nee-san sits slowly on that stool while rubbing her eyes.

She sits with her back facing me, I wet her hair with the blood spray and comb her hair.

In order not to pull, I comb gently and carefully.

I am now completely accustomed to this job.

Nee-san is bad at getting up.

Therefore, after she wakes up, it's hard to fix her appearance.

Dressing up aside, fixing her bed hair requires a detailed operation.

Because of her exquisiteness most people probably wouldn't notice her bed hair, but I can't help but be bothered by it.

Thus, because of that, I have volunteered to comb Nee-san's hair after she wakes up.

I noticed that her hair grew again while combing.

Her bangs are especially in the way.

When I tell Nee-san that the hair needs to be cut, she obediently nods.

They were obstructing her after all.

It's not necessary to use scissors.

After returning the spray to its place, I fit Nee-san's hair with my nails.

I cut the hair with my nails just like that.

These nails can cut better than incompetent scissors.

I finish the haircut quickly and collect the hair which fell on the ground.

And then, I gulp that hair down.

If you ask me why did I do such thing, that's because Nee-san's hair contains quite a lot Magic power.

In other words, it's for the Evolution. I, who hunt a lot of demon beasts and demon insects naturally may inherit their properties in the next Evolution.

Therefore, I occasionally eat Nee-san's hair.

I'm told that Nee-san's high-quality magic may take priority during the Evolution.

I who can't kill Pseudo-humans is grateful to death.

Because even if I Evolve and obtain a living body, I don't want to become an insect.

Although the hair I eat is low in quantity, but if I have to choose between that and killing Pseudo-humans, there's no need to think.

..... I can't even tell the taste anyway.

## CHAPTER 24

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..... After all, it's no use.

After meditating in Nee-san's room, I open my eyes slowly and my forehead wrinkles.

Nee-san who sit on the bed still dozing off looks at me while giving a small yawn.

I look at her and slowly shake my head.

In order to use magic, one must feel the magic within his body first.

..... But, though Nee-san started teaching me basic of magic since a while ago, I am not able to feel the Magic power at all.

I have felt Magic power once when I defeated Black Salamander, however, that was not intentional.

Nee-san is professional so it's easy as pie for her to use magic, she told me that I can't use it because "You have no sophistication".

Failing at basics of basics is in a sense unusual, I won't give you a seal of approval anytime soon.

You should give up on magic and concentrate on martial arts instead.

I am told again and again.

But, even I am fully aware of that.

That for someone with zero talent in magic, using a handword that surpasses many

high qualities edged tools is better.

However, there is something I absolutely must learn.

Magic detection. A support Magic that would allow me to become aware of my surroundings.

I feel like someone is watching me recently.

What if that being is concealed with Magic?

That's not everything I'm concerned about.

Monsters with no temperature can't be detected by the Heat detection.

There may be comrades slipping through my detection.

As for Life detection, it's range is too small, and unlike in the labyrinth, there are too many animals of various sizes in the plains to use it with a satisfactory effect.

For surprise attack • assassin type like me, catching prey off guard is most important.

It's necessary to increase my precision immediately.

However..... As I said before my talent in magic is literally the worst.

I can't even proceed to basics because I can't even sense the Magic itself.

How do you teach someone how to fire a gun, when he doesn't even know how to load a bullet?

Nee-san who gave up in the middle of the lecture is half asleep.

I don't have any intention to stop at the moment..... but the road seems long.





I run through the plains in search of prey.

The potential of Heat detection increased, but the reliability seems to drop recently.

Because of the feeling of being watched, I can't even concentrate clearly.

In the first place, it seems that I have depended on the Heat detection way too much.

There seems to be a technique to pinpoint a position of the prey if you look and feel.

But I'm an amateur after all. I, who was an ordinary high school student, couldn't possibly obtain such technique in my lifetime.

This is impossible even for Nee-san.

When I was under attack of Lesser Evil, she used bats created from her own body, of that I am aware, but in truth, Nee-san's detection is poor.

She's way too strong.

She's opposite to me, an undead who can feel the living beings, Nee-san who is way too strong can't sense almost anything.

Therefore, in order to increase her visibility, she creates bats and detect by visuals.

When I asked if her bats are not able to do echolocation before, she told me that her bats are classified as Megabats, so it's impossible.

Also, since that person was born as Vampire, she didn't bother to learn something she wasn't able to do like detection.

To put it simply, even Nee-san has her weak points.

I must do something about the detection myself.

I hunt as always while occasionally avoiding Pseudo-humans.

While hunting, I found a new troublesome monster.

It's name [Men-eating Earthworm] (Men Eater). Approximately a four-meter earthworm that moves under the ground.

Its actual strength is no big deal. I can easily cut its soft body with a single blow.

The problem is its living habitat.

This monster which moves in underground..... Can't be detected by heat detection at all.

Right. My detections have almost no effect underground.

I was, fortunately, lucky this time. When this fellow came from underground I was really scared to death.

It was a big deal that I came across this. Until now, I have never thought about enemies underground.

That's not all. While paying attention to the top, I have to pay attention to the below now too. I may have to pay a high price.

The Magic detection and a way to increase my other detections is more and more necessary.

I must somehow become aware of magic while looking for a way to increase my enemy detection.

Either way, some measures are needed.

After killing my last Night Wolf, I decided to return back to the labyrinth.

The eyes that stared at me..... Suddenly disappeared once again.

There was no harm done for now, but it's really creepy.

..... I feel like my worries are increasing recently.



When the Freezing Undead, Himuro Takahina disappeared in the dark labyrinth,  
one Raven Harpy descended to the ground and greedily devoured the Night Wolf's  
corpse.

## CHAPTER 25

---

Today, I also practice hard, but as always I can't even sense the [Ma] in Magic power.

In the first place, what is Magic power?

Let's return to the starting point. I ask Nee-san to begin the lecture from the beginning.

Because the level of my Magic Professor – Profess has risen, I have not taken a lecture from Nee-san like this in quite a while.

Seeing my interest, a small smile forms on Nee-san's expressionless face as if she was waiting for these words.

I have been instructed to sit at the table while she cheerfully prepares.

Magic power is.

While being an energy circulating through the world, it's carried by everything aside from living creatures.

Humans interfere with wooden staves and rings made from metal and depending on the circumstances cause various phenomena.

Humans generally refer to this as [Magic].

But if it's like this, then why existences like me, Nee-san and monsters can directly carry Magic power?

The premise to that question differs.

For example, how can a mineral that is used for bait emit a magic power?

How can a creature have the capabilities to Magic power on their body hair or scales?

In the first place, how can undead like me, a creature that died carry Magic power?

That way, for every species there's a different way to carry the Magic power.

These creatures in general terms are referred to as [Monsters].

Naturally, the magic that monsters handle differs from the humans.

On the contrary, it could be said that every species have different Magic.

Hence, humans think of it as [Extrajudicial] and that it should be removed.

Magic is only ours skill, it is our advantage, Nee-san said.

By the way, what Nee-san is teaching me is one of the [Extrajudicial] ways, a technique used by Vampires.

Rather, she doesn't know anything else.

Because, Immortal – Undead is similar species to Immortal – Vampire, the theory behind the use of Magic should be the same.

Her race's Magic power is far superior in quality and quantity and in addition vampires have talent that I lack.

Acquiring Vampire's Magic must be like a dream within a dream.

When I mutter so, Nee-san nods in agreement.

Even though Undead is running on the Magic power itself, but because of inherently low intelligence they are unsuitable to use Magic in the first place.

Though I feel slightly tired from not obtaining results, I don't think I can be more motivated than I am now.

..... After all, do I have to use every trick in the book?

It seems that learning the human magic would be a way to go.

Originally, I was a being without any Magic at all. Millions of human beings use this Magic so it most likely the easiest to understand.

But the problem is, how should I learn it?

Nee-san does not understand Human letters.

However, there would be no stupid fool who would teach me Magic.

Do not forget that I was chased before.

For humans, monsters are enemies.

..... I have a feeling that the road to learning Magic is still far away.

Should I consider a different method of strengthening my detection?.....



Incidentally, I was able to learn something new after Evolving.

As a matter of fact, this method is usable by all type of monsters, but the efficiency differs.

Others can't even compare to us, the Immortal class who store the Magic power directly in their bodies, which increases the Magic absorption efficiency to impressive

levels.

If I wasn't an Immortal, Evolving after few months wouldn't be possible.

..... I see. Certainly, if every monster evolved at such pace, the world would be full of Demon Kings.

It seems the growth of individuals greatly differs, though it's impossible to say for sure.

After Evolving, the Magic quality itself increased, while the Magic absorption efficiency decreased.

I vaguely suspect this.

Since I have become Freezing Immortal – Freezing Undead, I have hunted monsters in the labyrinth from time to time, but after confirming the Present Magic power, it increased only vaguely.

The current me is Rank 2. With the exception of Black Salamander, everything else in the labyrinth is Rank 1. Such monsters don't provide enough Magic power at all.

However, five times the Magic power is needed for the next Evolution. However, the efficiency is only one-tenth of the previous rate.

It's meaningless to hunt in the labyrinth. I don't have a choice, but to continue hunting in the plains.

But..... I have to somehow avoid raising the interest of belligerent monsters.....

It doesn't seem like I will run out of worries.

Also, Nee-san, could you stop giving me information in such small amounts?

Eh? If you teach me all at once, it would be boring afterward?

Because of the hateful Profess, your screen time has decreased?

You will tell me the necessary things when the time is right, so look forward to it?

Therefore, that's all for today..... Hey.

She zips her lips with a gesture.

..... What is this?



## CHAPTER 26

---

I was troubling Nee-san.

Well, she taught me really necessary things beforehand, and above all, I can't say that she doesn't take care of me.

..... Hey. More importantly, I'm currently in the middle of hunting. I shouldn't be lost in thoughts.

I jump down from large boulder after looking around.

What I was looking for on the large boulder was the Man-Eating Worm, Man Eater.

It can't attack me from the ground when I'm standing on a boulder.

It's a simple, but effective method.

I feel the gaze on me today too.

Rather, I feel like it gets stronger day by day.

Is this thanks to the strengthening of my detection ability?

Or the gaze itself became stronger?

I don't know which it is either..... but, if it's the latter then it's bad.

Who or why is that entity watching me is unknown.

However if, it finds an opportunity to attack me..... No.

That's not going to happen. I shake my head while thinking such.

If it wanted to surprise attack me, it would have already done so a long time ago.

Especially, I ascertain my prey when I attack, so I'm always attacking a suitable target.

Honestly, I'm used to attacking, but I'm not used to being attacked.

I'm paying attention, but I'm unguarded for a moment here and there.

I'm an amateur. My techniques are still unskilled.

I was not taken by surprise so far because I'm filling that gap with Life and Heat detection.

I think that it's also a result of luck aiding me.

..... Meeting Nee-san was lucky, making it this far without having an accident is also lucky.

My number one strengths are my nonexistent presence of Undead and my handword that is sharper than edged tools.

However, narrowly escaping death all the time is most likely thanks to the [Good Luck].

I want to acquire suitable abilities, while it is still accompanying me.



I was able to hunt three games today.

The time it took is approximately two hours.

I run around the plains in order to ensure to come across a designated target.

One in 40 minutes is sufficient performance.

I was almost discovered by a Pseudo-human.

A monster with the lower part of the body of a snake, a [Lamia].

It's sprawling in the grass, searching for a prey.

It seems to be searching for prey with Heat detection after all. If I was few seconds slower to hide, I would be discovered.

Movements of Lamia who has characteristics of a snake is unexpectedly swift.

If I was discovered, just how hard would it be to get away?

..... Recently, I may have gotten too comfortable at hunting and became a little careless.

Although I was caught in Lesser Evil's trap just recently. I do not learn.

Let's reflect.



Because I had a bad feeling all of sudden while walking, I jump behind.

In an instant. The ground rises and ugly Earthworm jumps out of the underground.

Tsu, dangerous.....!

If my reaction was one-second slower, I would be eaten.

Surprise and fear run through my whole body.

That instantly turns into frustration, I restore my collapsed posture, and this time, jump forward.

The Man Eater wiggles its body and tries to return underground.

I don't miss such a big opening and drive my handsword through its body.

The lump of fat gives a soft and tender response.

The Man Eater's head disconnected from its body and feebly fell to the ground.

That surprised me.

I remove the fluids stuck to my hand after looking at the non-responsive body.

I thought I was going to die.

No matter how you look at it, I would definitely die if that thing swallowed me.

Although I'm already dead.

But, still.

I'm still moving.

This isn't the first time something like that happened.

I'm experiencing the moment of life and death again and again.

And each time, I have survived by the skin of my teeth.

I'm amazed at the strength of my devil's luck.

..... Let's return.

Anger and fear don't last long in my chilled brain and heart.

Only emotions of wanting to work harder remain.

I'm tired. It's earlier than usually, but let's return.

When I return, I will probably go to Nee-san's room who is waiting for me at the entrance.

I will fix her bed hair and we will play together.

Let's go hunting again when she goes to sleep.

At that time..... I will surely struggle as usual.



On the way back.

I notice that the gaze suddenly vanishes again.

Just what on earth is this fellow's purpose?

I'm almost certain that it doesn't want to attack me.

It would be strange if that wasn't the case because I don't feel any thirst for blood from

the gaze.

But, if it's not watching me for the purpose of surprise attacking me, then why?

Something, is it waiting for me to do something?

What is it? What is that fellow waiting for?

..... I don't know.

**[Freezing Undead]** Himuro Takahina

101st Day.

**Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 802/1621**

## CHAPTER 27

---

— I run.

I drop my posture and run like some wild beast.

An ordinary person wouldn't be able to catch up to me.

I run through the plains in a straight line.

..... Where is it.

I use only my eyes without moving my head, always maintaining the same line of sight.

My Heat detection is extended to the maximum range I can perform while running, and I feel every heat within the range.

..... Where did you run to?

Today, I'm not worried only about the usual gaze.

No. I can't even afford to be bothered by the gaze.

I stop my legs to break with all my might and jump greatly.

That way, I floated several meters in the air, which allowed me to see as far as possible.

..... I can't see it.

That can't be.

My sight is good no matter how dark it is, and above all, it shouldn't be able to discover me in the middle of the night.

Today, I hunted as always.

In the middle of my hunt, I found a wounded Night Wolf.

My pocket watch fell out of my pocket during the hunt.

It briefly attracted my attention and the Night Wolf escaped.

..... If that was it, how good would that be?

I don't know what that fellow was thinking about, but he escaped with my pocket watch in his mouth.

I got it from Nee-san..... My important watch.

It's not something I can afford to lose.

I will definitely find it. If not, I will be too ashamed to show my face before Nee-san.

Where did that Night Wolf disappear to?

No matter how much I raised my speed, the opponent is a wolf.

I can't match its speed on foot.

But my body doesn't get tired at all.

If I keep chasing, I will be definitely able to catch up.

I'm certain it ran this way. It may hide in the grass and I just didn't see it.

I stop at once and expand the Heat detection range as far as possible.

..... More than 200 meters radius. Thanks to the increase in Magic power, my Heat detection range increased again.

I feel the heat of beasts.



The result is——Zero?

Give me a break. I certainly saw that fellow go this way.

Did I made a mistake or it changed its direction?

However, even if that was true that's not important.

What is important right now, is only the thief dog who stole my pocket watch.

If it didn't escape this way, then where?

I came across the location the Night Wolf escaped to.

If that fellow changed his direction here, did he escape to the right or to the left?

Let's think about it.

If I was a Night Wolf, how would I escape from someone who is stronger than me in every aspect, but speed?

I calculate the routes I would escape to and check them thoroughly one-by-one.

But, the results were not good.

It's only natural. Because I'm not used to tracking an opponent obstinately like that.

I hunt a prey whom I come across and move to the next target no matter if I succeed or fail.

I'm doing this such way.

My tracking technique is poor. I have never attempted to try it out.

..... However. I will absolutely not let that fellow escape from me.

That pocket watch is present I have received from Nee-san together with this butler suit.

That [Thing] is most important to me.

If I lose that, I wouldn't be able to apologize to Nee-san enough.

It has been three hours since I started searching.

It will be more difficult to search as the time passes.

When it comes to this, I will have to hunt every Night Wolf in the plains.

..... I started thinking such half seriously.

Koto

I hear something from behind.

As expected, I was too preoccupied with the pocket watch so I didn't pay attention, I quickly turn around.

However. Nothing was in the place I heard the sound from.

Then, what was the sound I heard just now<

Thinking such, I look around the vicinity.

The moment I lowered my eyes down to my feet, I couldn't believe my eyes.

Because the pocket watch I frantically looked for, fell there.

I pick it up before thinking about it.

After confirming whether it is damaged or not, I open the lid.

The time ticked away without suffering any damage.

While feeling relieved a doubt was raised at the same time.

Naturally, until a while ago, the watch was not there.

I remember the sound from a while ago.

That was most likely the sound of watch falling on the ground.

But, why?

It's impossible to think that the watch the Night Wolf ran away with would return on their own.

Did someone get it back?

Such thought flashes across my mind, however, who was it?

Nee-san? She should be still asleep, besides, she does not do things in such roundabout way.

If that's the case, then who—tsu?

Then, I noticed.

That gaze disappeared again.

Until a moment ago, it was watching me from somewhere.

No way, was that the doing of the gaze?

However, I don't understand the reason for doing that.

The purpose of watching me, everything.

..... It's no use.

Because I don't want to worry about it that much, let's consult Nee-san about it.

First, I must return to the labyrinth. Today, I'm considerably later than usual.

Let's hurry. Although Nee-san told me before that she likes waiting.

I..... if anything, hate waiting or being late.



A young Raven Harpy is flying high in the sky with a Night Wolf's head caught in her feet, watching Takahina.

Once she confirms that Takahina returned to the labyrinth, she nods in satisfaction.◦

She then flies away to her nest.

## CHAPTER 28

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I tell Nee-san about the gaze.

I tell her that when I enter the plains, I have the feeling of being observed.

I don't know where or by whom I am watched.

However, I don't feel any hostility, so there was no real harm.

When I return to the labyrinth, the gaze instantly vanishes.

I find it creepy.

In the beginning, I looked for the gaze desperately.

..... However, I couldn't find anything with my detection abilities.

Because the gaze didn't do anything, I recently put my thoughts about it aside.

However, yesterday.

When a Night Wolf stole my pocket watch and I was searching for it wholeheartedly.

Before I noticed, the pocket watch fell to my feet.

If my hunch is correct, then it was the gaze that dropped the pocket watch.

However, I don't understand neither the reason nor the method.

And, the most important thing..... The other side finally started approaching me.

With the present situation not being stagnant anymore, the gaze's next move will

probably come soon.

I tell Nee-san what's on my mind.

However, Nee-san tells me that she doesn't know well what's happening either.

Well, I should have expected this. In the first place, the information is too abstract and this is her holiday villa.

Because she isn't interested in the ecosystem of monsters in the plains, she doesn't know that much.

Nee-san's presence detection is poor and the number of foolish monsters that want to pick a fight with her is almost non-existent.

Unlike monsters in the labyrinth, there are many intelligent monsters outside.

Most of those guys will surely not get even close to Nee-san.

In reality, Nee-san doesn't even know half of the plains' monsters that I know.

In other words, being born as an overwhelmingly strong Vampire had an adverse effect on Nee-san.

It may be possible find the gaze using her bats.

I thought so for a moment, but that would require Nee-san to stand outside.

However, if I am together with this person, the gaze would most likely not appear.

It would be meaningless.

..... Then, I must find it somehow on my own after all.

This is bad, I can't think of a good plan.

I'm trying to figure something out.

Suddenly, Nee-san rocks her neck with her arms folded.

..... Ah.

She leaks out a small voice.



I walk outside like always.

What is not as always, is that 15 bats are flying around me.

These are fragments that Nee-san lent me in order to find the gaze.

Normally, all the obtained information would go to Nee-san.

However, she temporarily transferred the authority to me. That way, the information will go to me.

..... Therefore, I would like you to tell me such things sooner.

When I heard her say this, I unintentionally spilled such words from my mouth.

She put her hands on her ears and started saying "I can't hear you, I can't hear you".

However, this way, I can look for the gaze.

Because of the magic in my body, I can't use more bats, but this should be enough.

I walk around the plains as usual, while waiting for the feeling of being observed.

When the feeling appears, the bats will seize the culprit.

It has been roughly a month since being observed, but that will come to an end today.

I don't know who the opponent is, but..... I will definitely drag you out.



..... It's here.

It turned towards me, I can feel it clearly.

But, strangely, the gaze feels somewhat hostile.

But, what is it? It's slightly different from the usual.

As if swaying, as if it's strength is flickering.

If I had to express it, it seems as if perplexed.

However, why does the gaze seems to be perplexed?

I think about it a little.

I recognize the bats flying around me as the cause.

..... Indeed. Certainly different from the usual state.

It has observed me for about a month, did it get accustomed to me?

Therefore, it's puzzled over the change.



I can find it like this. I just have to look for monsters in the surroundings with suspicious behavior.

I let all bats out at once with such thoughts.

Suddenly, a response within the range of Heat detection.

The position, sky. It looks over here from straight above.

From the Heat detection, I can tell that the gaze is in a strong state of anxiety and confusion.

Is this fellow the gaze?

I see..... Were you observing me from above?

The eyesight of bird-type monster is not ordinary. They can clearly see even from 1km distance.

But, what is this?

This fellow didn't show any movement until just yesterday when it dropped the pocket watch. There were no other movements so why now?

While thinking so, the Heat detection responds.

Its temperature rises with the intention of an attack.

This is bad..... are you doing it?

This fellow didn't show its purpose until now, but am I the prey after all?

The size is little smaller than me.

I ready my hand sword, ready to counterattack.

I disperse all the borrowed bats in order to avoid damage.

Then.

Sudden deceleration.

The opponent's temperature distorts, its intention to attack disappears, and feelings of perplexment rise instead.

What, I don't have time to think.

Because my timing is fatally out of sync., I give up all my thoughts and collide with the heat.

..... However, the expected impact is lighter than I thought.

I wasn't able to attack, but I successfully caught the heat.

I open my eyes and turn towards the gaze.

The first thing I see is a pair of black eyes.

I can feel a soft feeling through my dull sense of touch.

Almost as if I was embracing, one feathered Raven Harpy is settled in my arms.

## CHAPTER 29

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The conclusion is.

The one who brought me back the pocket watch from the Night Wolf and the gaze observing me is this Raven Harpy.

Because this child doesn't understand my and Nee-san's language well, I had a little trouble conversing.

On the first day, I went to the plains.

She mistook me for a human, attacked me and was defeated.

What normally happens after that is that she would be killed or depending on the situation, violated.

However, I didn't do neither.

Maa, it's not that I didn't want to kill her, I simply couldn't. And I don't have raping for a hobby.

In the first place, I'm dead. The sexual desire within me doesn't even exist.

I have overlooked this child because I simply wanted to avoid her.

I don't want to kill beings similar to human, it was because of such selfish reason.

This child then found me several days later.

It seems that I just finished hunting.

Because she didn't know that I'm an Undead, she thought it was very strange that I

was leaving a hunted prey as it is without eating it.

She happily ate it.

Although harpies can fly, they are not strong enough to find food every day.

If she was lucky, she would get to eat the rotting meat of games of other monsters.

She told me with a difficult expression that it was a while since she ate a fresh meat.

Since then, she started following me around.

She doesn't know about Evolution so she was perplexed about my real intentions, but she was happy that she could get fresh meat daily.

Certainly, if you look closely, you can see that her complexion is better than before.

With good nutrition income, the body that was once only bones and skin started showing signs of femininity.

I think I understand now.

Did you watch me in order to secure food?

I leave all hunted prey as it is. If I think about it, it must have been a hard to come fortune for this child.

Because both me and Nee-san don't need to eat, I did not notice such a simple thing.

Anyway, this child who started following me because of food, started feeling something like a [Gratitude] towards me.



Then, one day, I was robbed of my belongings by a Night Wolf.

From above, she could see that I was really anxious, she could easily understand how important that thing was to me.

Flying in the sky with the terrific eyesight she was born with, she immediately found the Night Wolf and thanks to it being injured, she was able to successfully bring it down.

And in order not to get discovered, she delivered the pocket watch to me from the skies.

However, to not get scratched from that height, the pocket watch would need to be really lucky.

When I ask her how she did it, she stands on the ground and gently flaps her wings once.

Instantly, a small whirlwind appears out of nowhere.

..... I see, she delivered it with this.

Although I didn't know about her gratitude, she was able to return the favor at least a little this way.

She says joyfully.

And, this time.

When she started following me as always, she found me surrounded by bats.

She misunderstood that I was being attacked, and went to my rescue immediately.

However, right when she was ready to kick the bats, they scattered to all sides, so she stopped her attack and decelerated.

But the space she had left for deceleration was too small and she collided with me.

I caught her like that, and we came into unexpected second contact..... That's how it is.

I troubled Nee-san to lend me her bats yet I wasn't able to use them.

However, this child wouldn't come out if it weren't for the bats so..... it doesn't matter.

I ask her why did she not appear on her own.

It seems she wouldn't know what to say once we met.

..... If I was in a reverse situation, certainly I wouldn't know too.

About an hour passed since I started listening to her story.

Maa, it took some time, but I finally know the reason behind this child's observing.

You can say that load has been taken from my mind.

After finishing the talk, the harpy suddenly spreads her wings and prostrates on the ground.

This is an act of [Obedience] for flying beings like her.

..... I, useful, be. Therefore, toget, her.

The Harpy girl eagerly appeals.

I'm at a loss.

The feelings of gratitude she feels towards me are merely the result of my selfishness.

If I don't hunt for Magic power like this, I will remain a corpse.

It's not like I left the carcasses, particularly for this girl.

In the first place, she is someone I tried to kill.

She should resent me, not feel gratitude towards me.

However, she didn't listen.

I later became aware that Harpy's feelings run deep, and sometimes they refer the beings they feel gratitude towards to as [Master].

At this time, her instincts already engraved me as her Master.

In the end, I wasn't able to come up with a good way to send her away, so I allowed her to follow me.

..... But, when I see her figure joyfully walking behind me, oh well, is what I think.

I notice that wry smile floated on my face and scratch my head while sighing.

Now then..... How am I going to explain this to Nee-san?

## CHAPTER 30

---

I'm confronted by a Sword Lion in the plains.

A lion with rapier-like thorns on its mane roars, exposing its fangs.

..... The odds are against me if confronting it head on.

However, that..... would be only if I was alone.

I stoop down and start running towards it without hesitation.

I intercept the Sword Lion after confirming its movement.

A small whirlwind coiled around its face.

It's a slightly stronger gentle breeze that can't leave a satisfying wound.

However, it blows the soil and sand into Sword Lion's eyes, rendering them useless for a moment.

The Lion is surprised at the sudden incident and stops its movement.

I stab towards the desperate monster's brow.

Without altering my aim, I use the handword for a certain kill.

The Sword Lion falls down without agony.

That body..... will never get up again.



When the battle ends, one Raven Harpy descends behind me from above.

When I turn back my head, a black pair of eyes looks up to me from below.

It looks at me as if saying praise me, praise me. I smile wryly.

I gently pat this child's, [Misha]'s head.



That day, I brought back a Harpy with me to the labyrinth.

And, I wanted to explain to Nee-san, but..... she didn't want to talk with me.

..... It was the first time I saw Nee-san pupils..... become like mine.

I was really saved that she cheered up after three hours of hair caressing, nail clipping and letting her lie on my lap.

Anyway, somehow Nee-san was willing to [Keep] this child—My expression was little resistant, but Nee-san stubbornly overlooked it—After receiving permission, we went hunting together.

Compared to me who relies on Heat detection, she, the Harpy can see 2km ahead.

Her flight speed is also high, she is ideal for locating a prey.

However, her offensive power is overwhelmingly lacking, so she has difficulty hunting the monsters directly.

Hence, until now, she was able to eat only half-eaten rotting corpses.

The little whirlwind she creates using a wind magic, is not suitable to fight.

It can distract the enemy for several seconds, but..... asking her to defeat it in that time is impossible.

However, her supporting abilities are considerably high.

An ability which allows her to locate a prey without being discovered.

Although the little whirlwind can't be used as an offensive ability, it's certainly effective for blinding the opponent.

Both are abilities which I need a lot, and above all, she listens to me well.

As for hunting partners goes, she is the most excellent.

..... Although Nee-san's bad mood is slightly troublesome.



My efficiency rises significantly when hunting with Misha.

Not mentioning that I can find the prey easily, I am now able to hunt two more monsters I couldn't before.

Sword Lion, Violent Serpent.

I am able to take on monsters I couldn't when I was alone with Misha's follow-up.

The time hunting didn't change, but the Magic power obtained raised by several times.

The speed at which I'm obtaining the Magic power is considerably high even among Immortals.

I pat Misha's head again when seeing her cutting the Sword Lion's meat.

Thanks to her, I will be able to Evolve much earlier than I expected.

..... This time, I will obtain it. A warm living body.

If that happens, I will be able to leave this Dark zone.

Mou, I haven't seen the sunlight for so long.

Although I certainly don't dislike this red moon rising over the plains.

Anyway, I just want to see the sun.

My sleeve is suddenly pulled.

I look and see Misha looking at me while tilting her head.

..... It seems my expression was a bit grim. I have made her worry about me.

No problem. This body can't feel pain after all.

I pat her head again after saying so.

A smile floats on my face after seeing Misha close her eyes in satisfaction.



I wait for Misha to finish her meal.

Then, after continuing hunting for a while, I confirm the time.

..... It's time to return.

Since she [Kept] ..... this child, her temper became bad.

If I don't return early and flatter her, she will sulk.

We are returning, I tell Misha.

I turn on my heels and return to the labyrinth.

I can hear light footsteps following behind me.

..... I am now completely used to having someone walking behind me.

I walk slightly slower than when I walk alone.

**[Freezing Undead]** Himuro Takahina

130th Day.

**Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit: 1388/1621**

## CHAPTER 31

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I don't go outside on the rainy days.

Because Nee-san is still sound asleep in her room and I can't go outside to hunt, I spend my time walking around the labyrinth.

..... I feel like I always don't know what to do on rainy days.

I decided to play with Misha until Nee-san wakes up.

There are no problems regarding her meals. I hunted a Black Salamander I came across.

It seems the meat behind the hardy scales is pretty delicious.

..... Although eating at the moment is unnecessary, I may be able to eat after the next Evolution.

Because I can't taste anything, it's meaningless to eat right now.

I ask Misha if there's something she wants to do.

After thinking for a while..... She says she wants me to comb her hair.

She tells me that she saw me combing Nee-san's hair and she wanted to try it too since then.

I don't really mind. I have a lot of free time after all.

I let Misha sit on the rubble I always sit on and go behind her.

I take out the comb I started recently carrying from my pocket and carefully start combing Misha's hair.

It's different from Nee-san's wavy, silky hair. Misha's hair is black and feels like feathers on touch.

Because it's the same hair color I once had, I comb very carefully while feeling nostalgic.

Although I would sometimes tickle her, she is obediently enduring it.

The hair is reaching only up to her shoulders, so it doesn't take long to finish.

Soon, her hair is neatly combed.

Misha timidly raises her arms..... she extends her wings my way.

Grooming..... No, it seems she wants me to also fix her feathers.

..... How do you do that?

After thinking it over, I come to a conclusion that doing it with a comb would be difficult, therefore, I caress her feathers softly with my hands.

It seems I'm tickling her because her shoulders tremble.

But, it seems that I'm doing it right.

While I was hesitant at first, I continue slowly caressing her feathers.

After successfully fixing her feathers, I cut the Black Salamander meat and give it to Misha since she seemed hungry.

Seeing her biting the meat, a smile floats on my face unconsciously.

Living..... it looks hectic.

You eat, you sleep.

If you don't eat, you suffer from starving.

If you don't sleep, soon you won't be able to move because of the accumulated fatigue.

Living is that kind of stuff.

Eating is not necessary for me and Nee-san, and sleeping is also not required.

Nee-san sleeps every day, because of Vampire's preferred time of activity.

Certain Immortals demand the feeling of satisfaction sleeping provides.

For us Immortals, eating and sleeping is only such thing.

In contrast, why is living so inconvenient?

Why does living restrict you so much?

It's not even possible to live without breathing consistently.

..... Really, how miserable.

But, therefore, it shines so much.

Certainly Immortals are free.

If the body is not destroyed, one can live forever.

However, it's cold.

It's helplessly cold.

Not only the body. Even the mind.

Being with her, with Misha, I finally understood.

We are candles.

The body is the candle, and the fire is the life.

It will eventually burn out.

However, that is alright.

What is the meaning of a candle without fire?

It's just an inferior ornament.

Rather than being an ornament, I want to burn until I disappear.

I want a fire that would warm up this cold wax body.

I don't need a body that can live eternally if I can't do anything with it.

Just a moment is enough.

I—I want a fire that will lit this body.



After Misha became full, she curled up on the floor and started sleeping.

I laugh at such bewildering behaviour.

..... Really. Living seems to be so hectic.



How warm.

In order to not let her catch a cold, I take off my coat and put it gently over her not to wake her up.

There's still some time until Nee-san wakes up.

So until then, I will look over this child who desperately struggles to live.。

I will work hard to obtain a warm body just like this child.

For us Immortals, living like Misha seems way too difficult.

I kept watching her sleep without getting tired.



..... Right.

After all, I'm only a corpse.

Just how fragile the living are?

Just how easy it is for life to crumble and disappear?

To hold on that and not lose it is important.

If it was me from the past, I would understand.

I did not understand. No, I simply forgot.

Life..... living things——

—If you poke it/them a little, it easily breaks.

## CHAPTER 32

---

A red moon is floating as always in the center of the starless sky.

Caught in a thin veil of clouds, it looks magically beautiful.

..... I wonder why..... am I looking up at the moon?

Today's memories are awfully vague.

My body which should not feel neither the pain nor fatigue feels too heavy.

I'm having trouble even with the slightest movements.

I quietly lower my sight.

There is a scourge of flesh and blood scattered all over the surroundings.

There are more than 20 monsters exposing their horrid corpses.

Night Wolf, Tsuchigumo, Sword Lion, Violent Serpent, Man-Eating Worm.

That's not all. Even a Werecat, Werewolf, Lamia and Dragonewt.

More than half of the species living in the plains were destroyed, barely keeping their original appearance.

..... Why..... Why did it become like this?

This cruel scene can't be described in words.

This is a scene of a massacre.

Who, what did this?

Even the strongest monster in the Red Rouge Plains I know, the Dragonewt was slaughtered.

Was something chased out of the Mountain Range of Dusk and came here?

Or was it a deed of some powerful monster I'm not aware of?

Just what happened here——

..... tsu?

I raise my foot trying to walk away while in thoughts.

Toes of my foot lightly kick something.

I pull out my foot and try to look down on reflex.

That moment——My body shivers.

Don't look. You must not see it.

Such cry resounds in the deepest parts of my heart.

A chill, far beyond the cold.

The hollow memories concealed in a haze, give me the highest possible warning.

Don't look, don't look, the voice keeps yelling at me.

However, I shake my head and brush off that voice.

Then, like a sluggish, rusty doll, I look down with awkward movements.

I face down.



At first, I couldn't understand.

No. My heart just refused to understand.

A badly bruised body.

If you look closely, I look the same way, but that is inconsequential.

The heat that should originally be there, can't be felt anymore.

The closed eyelids won't ever open again.

That's right, Magic Profess conveyed it to me.

As if the erosion in my head starts disappearing, I gradually remember.

The smiling face that bloomed whenever patted by my hand.

Black wings with the highest quality feathers that retained their unique gloss.

Limbs which regained their femininity thanks to the good nutrition.

All of it, covered in own blood..... robbed of the radiance of life.

Always walking behind me, looking up to me, the Harpy girl, Misha.

That girl, her appearances are completely changed.

She lies..... at my feet.



..... Right.

We were hunting as always.

We had a bad luck during the middle of a fight.

The belligerent Pseudo-humans looking for me felt the presence of a battle and came.

Before I was able to escape, other monsters heard the commotion and made an appearance.

I was trying to somehow escape.

However, I was surrounded and attacked at once.

But, Misha.

Unlike me, an Immortal who won't die unless the head is separated from the body.

She, a mortal who will die after losing blood, protected me.

One of the attacks she received, pierced through her heart.

Then, even without being able to say her last words.

Misha..... died.

I have killed.

I have slaughtered those who killed her.

Pseudo-humans, monsters, everything.

From anger and resentment.

Pseudo-humans which I was avoiding, I have murdered them all.

I have asked who could do such a thing?

What I was talking about..... Wasn't this my own work?



After remembering everything, I crumble down on the ground from the shock.

And hold Misha's body in my arms.

The soft feathers I was fond of are covered in blood..... her body already lost the warmth.

Again.

..... Gone, again.

Lost before me again.

Just like before..... it's the same as when I was alive.

I had a very important person.

That child died before my eyes just like Misha.

And again, I lost someone.

A person important to me.

An existence, I sincerely longed to be with.

Drip.

A drop falls on Misha's worn-out face.

I immediately think that it's going to rain.

But then I notice, that these are actually my tears.

Tears..... even though I'm a corpse?

Right after my question, the pain runs through my whole body.

An intense pain I once felt before.

..... I'm not getting any information from Profess.

But, the cause is obvious.

..... Evolution, huh?

A pain fierce enough to lose my consciousness.



However, a thing like this.

In comparison with a pain of losing Misha who won't wake up anymore.

I hug her body which became cold.

While doing so, my tears fall down endlessly.

The pain from deep sorrow causes me to feel like my heart is being pierced by countless swords.

She won't come back even if I avenge her.

Although it's already too late, I understand this fact.

For the first time since I died..... I scream from sorrow.

**[Freezing Undead]** Himuro Takahina

138th Day.

**Present Magic Power/Magic Power Containment Limit:** 1659/1621

✂Magic Power Containment Limit exceeded. Starting the Evolution.

✂A fixed amount of high-quality Magic power acquired. Skipping from Rank 2 to Rank 4.

✂Due to the Evolution, part of the lost memories was successfully restored.

# THE ANGEL VOWS IN FRONT OF THE RAVEN'S GRAVE

---

In front of the Red Rouge Plains.

There is a lone figure standing before a small hill.

"....."

With both hands in his pockets, his cold silver hair is fluttering above his shoulders.

That youth—Himuro Takahina turns towards the brand new gravestone.

His knees bend, and he kneels before the grave.

He pulls out his hands from the pockets and puts them in front of his face.

"Misha....."

Takahina closes his eyes while calling out the name of the sleeping girl.

In order to pray and wish.

He talks while remaining motionless.

"..... Thanks to you, I didn't break that day. Thank you"

He whispers his gratitude.

Even thousands of apologies wouldn't be enough towards the girl Takahina was so proud of.

While thinking so, he continued to talk.

"..... I wasn't able to make you into an Undead, turning you into my follower. I didn't want to give you this coldness"

Misha could become an Undead just like me.

She would become my follower.

That way, we could be together again.

However, once that happened, Misha would no longer be Misha.

..... I surely wouldn't be able to bear such a thing.

Therefore, I didn't do it.

I wished for her to live until the end.

Therefore, for now, please sleep peacefully.

Takahina prays, wishing such.

# THE NAME'S BOW PRINCESS

---

In Shardia on a certain main road.

It's a sunny day.

"U, uwaaaaaaa!"

A shriek of agony resounds under this cloudless sky.

The surrounding area is already dyed in blood.

Aooooon!!

More than two meters large wolf howls in delight after bringing down a prey.

Then, many wolves of the similar size flock around a carriage.

This wolf is called an Army Wolf. They wolves who form a pack and hunt together.

It's a B class monster which can take down several trained soldiers.

They who annihilated 10 mercenaries hired by the merchants in about five minutes, now surrounded the frightened merchants, not leaving them with a chance to escape.

"I, it's over....."

One of the merchants mutters.

One of the Army wolves leaps towards the merchant with the best body physique.

That moment.

*Thunk!*

The moment the wolf opened its drooling mouth, a jet-black arrow flies from somewhere and pierces the wolf's forehead.

Dying in the air, the wolf's body falls down to the ground in a parabola.

Merchants stare in wonder at the unexpected turn of events.

It's the same on the side of the wolves, but being monsters with bright minds, they start vigilantly looking around for the person who shot the arrow.

But, before they could react, two more arrows flew their way.

The same arrows cutting through the wind shot two more wolves to death.

Finally, wolves were able to find the hindrance who disturbed their hunt.

"Because I heard a shriek and a howl I came to take a look..... what a terrible thing"

A lone girl with brown hair tied up behind showed her appearance.

Charming slant eyes, undisputedly beautiful facial features, simple, but lovely attire.

Although she holds a Shortbow in her hand, the two quivers of different size on her back tell of the probable existence of a Longbow.

The girl exudes an atmosphere of an expert.

Sensing that, the Army wolves change the target from the merchants to this girl who killed their three comrades in a surprise attack.

There are 15 of them. It would be a very dangerous situation even for an R rank adventurer.

"..... Fufu"

However, that girl shows her teeth while laughing.

Immediately after that, she amazingly quickly shoots three arrows.

Each of the arrows flew in a different direction and easily went through three Army wolves.

One of the wolves was shot right in the middle of its brow and the second one had his heart pierced. The third wolf was shot in a shoulder, barely escaping with his life, but in few seconds, it collapsed on the ground while blowing bubbles from its mouth.

The other wolves immediately noticed with their noses that the arrow is covered in poison.

The wolf alpha howls loudly and the wolves disperse.

The movements of their considerably large bodies were unexpectedly swift and light.

The Army Wolves surround the girl.

But.

"They seem to stop....."

*Shuka!*

The girl easily flies out of the encirclement and shoots an arrow through one wolf's brow again.

The merchants and even the wolves were dumbfounded by the girl's godlike bow technique.

She takes an arrow from the quiver, loads it in the bow, she then pulls the string, aims, and releases.

The girl was able to accomplish this series of movements only in a few seconds.

The slaughtered mercenaries from before couldn't even compare with such dexterity.

Aooooooooon!!

However, be it a pride of a strong being or the pride of a wolf.

The wolf leader is unable to admit to the fact that he has been driven into a corner.

After seeing their leader fall to the girl's arrows, the remaining five Army Wolves ran away.



After the menace ran away, the startled merchants ran up to the girl.

"T, thank you very much! Thanks to you, we were saved!!"

"Really! Really thank you very much!"

Being thanked by men in tears, the girl turned away in embarrassment.

"..... There's no need to thank me..... Besides, I wasn't able to save the mercenaries"

Seeing the girl looking at the disastrous scene, the merchants lowered their heads.

Escorting the merchants is a long-term job.

They formed friendly relationships with half of the dead mercenaries after traveling together for so long.

"..... We can't leave them like that, I will help you bury them"

"No..... The least we can do is to carefully bury them with our own hands"

"..... I see"

She looks at the backs of merchants who burying the corpses of the mercenaries.



"..... Comrades..... huh"

She mutters sorrowly and sighs.

The girl turns on her heels.

"..... Well then, goodbye. It's only a few hours to the city with the carriage and other monsters will stay away because of the Army Wolves scent"

"Eh..... ah, please wait a second! At least, let us thank you somehow!"

"There's no need to since I only happened to pass by. If you can afford it you should visit the families of the deceased mercenaries"

The girls wave her hand and depart.

One of the merchants cried out loudly.

"T, then, at least your name!"

"Un? Let's see, will you let me go if I tell you that I don't have a name?"

"Please, tell us! Not knowing the name of our life saver will bring shame to us as merchants!"

"Shame? So exaggerated..... Well, the name should be alright"

The girl turns with slightly angry expression at the wryly smiling merchants.

"I am Merlin, Merlin Macherey. Your average adventurer searching for someone. Well then, this time, it's a goodbye"

That girl——Merlin says and turns on her heels again.

She gets off the main road and disappears into the thick forest.



After this, in a while.

Rumors about certain Archer start spreading.

It said that she can shot 10 arrows with her Shortbow in a blink of an eye.

That she can shoot her Longbow across two mountains with pin-point accuracy.

Certainly, godlike archery skills with arrows comparable to Magic bullets.

Her name is, Merlin Macherey.

Her nickname—— **[Bow Princess]**



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